Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089314
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON:EJQ/REH
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089314

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. TO FLAG FOR YOU THE CONTEXT IN WHICH YOUR FINE SINO-SOVIET REPORTING IS CURRENTLY BEING READ, THERE IS GROWING CURIOSITY HERE ABOUT THE SUBJECT, AND SPECULATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS RAISING TENSIONS. NO PARTICULAR CLUES, JUST PEOPLE LOOKING FOR THEM.

2. RE HOLIDAY ON ICE RUBLES, BURKE CHANGED HIS MIND AND
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HAS ALREADY AGREED TO A 1978 TOUR. WE HAVE SENT A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON HIS APPROACH TO THE COUNSELOR WHO, YOU WILL NOTE, GAVE BURKE NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON ADDITIONAL CONVERSIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION WE HAVE BEEN TOYING WITH THE THOUGHT THAT SOME OTHER US OUTFIT, FOR EXAMPLE LEISER, MIGHT BENEFIT FROM CONVERSIONS. THEORETICALLY, HE IS AS ENTITLED TO DO SO AS HOLIDAY ON ICE. THERE IS THE OBVIOUS PROBLEM OF BROADENING THE CIRCLE OF POTENTIAL USES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF BURDEN ON THE EMBASSY, BUT ALSO THE GENERAL SENSITIVITY OF

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THE QUESTION. IF YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW TO GO IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MOSCOW 6365, SOV/EXCHANGES (KRAUSE) INFORMED PROFFER OF EMBASSY AND SOVIET INTEREST IN HIS

PLANS. PROFFER SAID A VISIT THIS YEAR IS UNLIKELY BUT NOT BEYOND REALM OF POSSIBILITY. IF HE GOES, IT WILL BE IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF MAY. PROFFER AGREED TO CALL DEPART-

MENT WITH FURTHER NEWS OF HIS PLANS, WHICH WE WILL PASS ON TO YOU.

4. NOBLE TODAY RAISED INFORMALLY QUESTION WHETHER BILL BROWN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOING TO TAIPEI AS DCM THIS SUMMER AND HOW I AND EMBASSY WOULD FEEL ABOUT RELEASING HIM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS NOT A FIRM OFFER, AND SAID THAT BILL IS ONE OF SEVERAL ON THE LIST. COULD YOU PLEASE SEE WHAT BILL'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE? (I GATHER THAT AN ASSIGNMENT TO TAIPEI IS NOT UNIVERSALLY REGARDED AMONG CHINA HANDS AS AN UNMIXED BLESSING.) ALSO, IN THE EVENT BILL IS INTERESTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR AND THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ABOUT RELEASING HIM. AS FOR ME, IF IT WERE SOME-
THING BILL REALLY WANTED TO DO, I WOULD BE INCLINED NOT TO
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STAND IN HIS WAY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD SURELY PUT US IN A BIND. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE089314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGARRISON:EJQ/REH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-1022
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780480/aaaacqad.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebf734b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3039509
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ebf734b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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